

Practice exam questions: Memory

Instructions

- Each multiple-choice question is worth 1 mark.
- Short-answer questions are worth 1 mark unless otherwise indicated.

The nervous system and memory

Solutions start on page 117.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 10

The process through which information that has been entered into long-term memory becomes stable and durable is

- A encoding.
- B schematisation.
- C chunking.
- D consolidation.

QUESTION 200

If a person has a damaged hippocampus, they would most likely demonstrate

- A an inability to generate coherent sentences.
- B minimal functional deficit in memory abilities.
- C a lack of coordination for procedural memories.
- D an ability to remember past memories but no ability to form new ones.

QUESTION 300

Kandel's research into memory formation found that

- A aplysia were more intelligent than dolphins.
- B biochemical changes in synaptic function form different types of memory.
- C neuronal changes due to learning were not verified in other species, so his findings could not be generalised.
- D neuronal biochemical changes were inconsistent between different species.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 40

What conclusions did Kandel draw from his research studies?

QUESTION 50

What role does the hippocampus play in memory?

QUESTION 600

What is involved in the process of consolidation?

2 marks

Memory decline over the lifespan

Solutions start on page 117.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 700

It has been suggested that differences in memory ability across an individual's lifespan are due to

- A higher levels of confidence in elderly people when asked to learn or remember new information.
- B quicker processing of information by elderly people within tests of memory retention requiring recall.
- C an improvement in neural functioning within the central nervous system of elderly people.
- D lower motivation among elderly people to remember new and meaningless information.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 8000

How does ageing affect each of the sub-types of long-term memory?

3 marks

Amnesia, dementia and Alzheimer's disease

Solutions start on page 117.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 90

Impairment of memory for events that occur prior to severe head injury is called

- A anterograde amnesia.
- B repression.
- C retrograde amnesia.
- D selective forgetting.

QUESTION 10000

Which of the following is **not** a characteristic of Alzheimer's disease?

- A deterioration of the hippocampus
- B the accumulation of fatty deposits within the brain
- C progressive decay of tissue within the cerebral cortex
- D dramatic degradation of the reticular activation system

QUESTION 110000

An anterograde amnesiac was tested for her short-term memory span for unrelated nouns. What is your best guess about how many items she remembered?

- A zero
- B four
- C seven
- D nine

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 120

Explain what is meant by the term 'dementia'.

2 marks

QUESTION 1300

What aspect of memory is affected by anterograde amnesia?

QUESTION 14000

What aspect of memory is affected by retrograde amnesia?

QUESTION 15000

What sort of information is likely to be affected in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease?

Models for explaining human memory

Solutions start on page 118.

Short-answer question

QUESTION 160

What is the generally accepted definition of memory?

Levels of processing

Solutions start on page 118.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 170

_____ refers to the process of maintaining information in our memory.

- A Encoding
- B Acquisition
- C Retention
- D Recording

QUESTION 18000

In order for memory to be useful, it must be

- A recorded.
- B retrieved.
- C linked to episodic contexts.
- D decoded according to phonemic characteristics.

QUESTION 190000

The word 'flower' is flashed on a screen. A mental picture of the word 'flower' represents a _____ code; the definition 'part of a plant used for decoration' represents a _____ code; and 'sounds like tower' represents a _____ code.

- A structural; semantic; phonemic
- B iconic; semantic; episodic
- C phonemic; structural; semantic
- D iconic; structural; echoic

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 20

The process of converting information into a form that can be stored is known as _____, whereas _____ is the process of recovering information that has been stored.

2 marks

QUESTION 21

While there are three key processes that are required, people emphasise the _____ of information over time as being the role of memory.

QUESTION 22

Explain the difference between shallow and deep processes of encoding. Which would be better and why?

3 marks

Multi-store model of memory

Solutions start on page 118.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 23

_____ determines what information moves from sensory memory to short-term memory.

- A Chunking
- B Consolidation
- C Encoding
- D Selective attention

QUESTION 24

_____ provides a way of improving the efficiency of short-term memory by reorganising information into larger units.

- A Chunking
- B Consolidation
- C Encoding
- D Categorisation

QUESTION 25

Theories of short-term memory propose that its duration can be prolonged by _____.

- A the formation of echoes.
- B rehearsal.
- C counting aloud to prevent new input.
- D the use of iconic imagery.

QUESTION 26

Our episodic memory contains _____.

- A personal recollections of life events.
- B factual memory.
- C chronological information.
- D knowledge of how to do things.

QUESTION 27

In free recall, good memory performance for items at the end of the list is called _____.

- A displacement.
- B the primacy effect.
- C the latency effect.
- D the recency effect.

QUESTION 28

Short-term memory stores _____.

- A a limited amount of encoded information while it is required for further manipulation.
- B all forms of data, provided it is 'chunked' into larger units of information.
- C only information retrieved from our long-term memory.
- D all of the details gathered by our sensory systems until it is permanently encoded into our long-term memory.

QUESTION 29

The average number of 'bits' of information that can usually be processed within short-term memory is _____.

- A three.
- B five.
- C seven.
- D nine.

QUESTION 30

As short-term memory can only store information for approximately _____ seconds, the process of _____ may be used to hold onto this information while it is needed.

- A 18–20; chunking
- B 3–4; selective attention
- C 18–20; maintenance rehearsal
- D 3–4; semantic encoding

QUESTION 31

Maintenance rehearsal is to elaborative rehearsal as _____.

- A rote repetition is to semantic processing.
- B organisation is to chunking.
- C decoding is to clustering.
- D deep processing is to shallow processing.

QUESTION 32

What type of memory retains autobiographical information and factual knowledge?

- A declarative memory
- B episodic memory
- C procedural memory
- D semantic memory

QUESTION 33

When listening to a speaker, you store the information that you are hearing in _____ memory until you are able to write it down.

- A semantic
- B sensory
- C short-term
- D storage

QUESTION 34

Participants in an ERA are briefly shown a group of four letters to remember. They are then asked to count backwards by threes from 547. What would you expect to happen?

- A Recall of the letters declines rapidly after about 4 seconds.
- B Recall of the letters declines rapidly after about 20 seconds.
- C There is no forgetting because 4 is less than the 'magic number 7 plus or minus 2'.
- D Since numbers and letters come from different categories, there is no retrograde interference and hence no forgetting.

QUESTION 35

Linda is presented with a word. Her task is to come up with a word of opposite meaning in the shortest possible time. The experimenter records Linda's reaction time. This experiment requires Linda to use her _____.

- A episodic memory.
- B procedural memory.
- C semantic memory.
- D short-term memory.

QUESTION 36

Libby makes a grocery list with ten items listed. When she gets to the store, she realises she forgot the list and can only recall the first part of the list. This is referred to as the _____.

- A immediacy effect.
- B latency effect.
- C primacy effect.
- D recency effect.

QUESTION 37

For an experiment, students were instructed that their teacher was going to read out a list of 15 words which they would be required to memorise. Immediately after the teacher had finished reading the list, students were allowed to write down as many of the words as they could remember. Based on your knowledge of memory, recall would be better for _____.

- A words at the beginning of the list.
- B words in the middle of the list.
- C words at the end of the list.
- D words at the beginning and end of the list.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 38

What is echoic memory?

QUESTION 39

What is chunking? What is its purpose?

2 marks

QUESTION 400

The process of _____ maintains information in STM by preventing it from being lost or displaced by other material.

QUESTION 410

_____ stores processes and skills that enable us to perform a course of action.

QUESTION 420

_____ stores information and knowledge about the world, such as facts and rules.

QUESTION 430

Describe the serial position effect, highlighting the terms used to refer to its key features.

QUESTION 440

List the three stages, in order, within Atkinson and Schiffman's (1968) memory model, describing the capacity and duration of each.

3 marks

QUESTION 450

What is the key function of sensory memory?

QUESTION 460

Describe two attributes of iconic memory.

2 marks

QUESTION 470

Where does the information within our short-term memory come from?

QUESTION 480

Explain what is involved in the process of elaborative rehearsal. Provide an example of how this process can be seen in practice.

2 marks

QUESTION 490

Identify the type of long-term memory that is involved in the following scenarios.

- Knowing that there are four types of long-term memory.
- Being able to tie your shoelaces.
- Memories surrounding the birth of a sibling.

3 marks

QUESTION 500

The _____ theory proposes that long-term memory is organised systematically into a hierarchical arrangement of _____ interconnected via meaningful _____.

3 marks

QUESTION 510

What is the primacy effect? How does it occur?

2 marks

QUESTION 520

What is the recency effect? Why does it occur?

2 marks

QUESTION 530

Can information be rehearsed while in sensory memory to prolong its duration? Explain.

QUESTION 540

In what way does rehearsal enhance the functioning of our short-term memory?

QUESTION 550

From which form of declarative memory is retrieval of information often more difficult? Why?

2 marks

Working memory

Solutions start on page 120.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 560

Which of the following aspects of working memory would be involved in repeating a phone number in our head until we could dial it?

- A the articulatory loop
- B the visuo-spatial sketchpad
- C the central executive
- D elaborative rehearsal

QUESTION 570

The concept of working memory differs from the original concept of short-term memory in that

- A information within working memory can be displaced due to interference, whereas short-term memories can be lost because of decay.
- B short-term memory is a temporary storage system, whereas working memory does not actually store the data it is processing.
- C working memory includes a processing system along with storage; short-term memory just stores information.
- D working memory flows from the sensory register and is followed by short-term memory.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 580

What, according to Baddeley (1986), is 'working memory'?

QUESTION 590

Briefly describe the characteristics of the key elements within Baddeley's model of working memory.

4 marks

Theories of forgetting

Solutions start on page 120.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 600

_____ involves an inability to retrieve, recall, or recognise information that is in long-term memory.

- A Displacement
- B Disuse
- C Forgetting
- D Interference

QUESTION 610

According to Freud, the process whereby a person intentionally tries to think about other things in order to forget unpleasant memories is called

- A psychogenic amnesia.
- B decay.
- C psychogenic interference.
- D suppression.

QUESTION 620

According to the _____ theory of forgetting, sensory impressions and acquired knowledge of facts leave memory traces that fade away with time or a lack of use.

- A decay
- B interference
- C consolidation
- D repression

QUESTION 630

Russell is trying to remember the name of a new colleague he met the day before. He knows her name begins with the letter P but is unable to retrieve the name. His difficulty is known as

- A state-dependent forgetting.
- B the 'tip-of-the-tongue' phenomenon.
- C explicit memory failure.
- D consolidation failure.

QUESTION 640

After you move house and are given a new phone number, you find that you have trouble remembering it because your old phone number keeps getting in the way. You are experiencing

- A retrograde interference.
- B anterograde amnesia.
- C context-dependent memory.
- D proactive interference.

QUESTION 6500

Many victims of crime exhibit post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their experience. Symptoms include a loss of memory surrounding the incident, although some of these memories can emerge during nightmares, which adds to the victims' anxiety. This memory phenomenon is best explained as

- A psychosomatic amnesia.
- B retrograde amnesia.
- C motivated forgetting.
- D memory decay.

QUESTION 6600

After your friend gives you their new mobile phone number, you can't remember the old one any more. This is an example of

- A retrograde amnesia.
- B retroactive interference.
- C recency interference.
- D suppression.

QUESTION 67000

It is suggested that study is followed by _____ in order to minimise the effects of interference on retention of information.

- A watching television
- B studying similar material
- C studying different subject matter
- D sleep

QUESTION 68000

While playing Trivial Pursuit with his family, Matthew was trying to recall the names of the Seven Dwarfs, but he couldn't remember them all at the time. Despite not having seen the movie for several years, he said that the names were on the 'tip of his tongue'. Later that night, he suddenly remembered and was able to list them all. This phenomenon would tend to refute the

- A semantic network theory.
- B decay theory of forgetting.
- C interference theory of forgetting.
- D relative permanence of episodic memories.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 690

Define what the term 'forgetting' means.

QUESTION 700

_____ occurs when previously stored information disrupts or inhibits an individual's ability to remember similar, more recently learned material.

QUESTION 710

_____ occurs when newly learned information disrupts an individual's ability to remember similar previously stored material.

QUESTION 720

_____ involves the partial or complete loss of memory (due to non-organic causes) for threatening information or traumatic experiences.

QUESTION 7300

Does retrieval failure cause permanent loss of information?

QUESTION 7400

How does interference theory account for the process of forgetting?

QUESTION 7500

Outline one of the criticisms of the theory of motivated forgetting.

QUESTION 7600

How does the decay theory explain the process of forgetting?

QUESTION 77000

Explain a criticism of the decay theory of forgetting.

2 marks

The forgetting curve

Solutions start on page 121.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 7800

Ebbinghaus' research into forgetting suggests that

- A we forget at a steady rate.
- B we forget slowly at first and then more rapidly as time progresses.
- C we forget rapidly at first and then more slowly as time progresses.
- D the method of relearning demonstrates that we never really forget material that we learn.

QUESTION 79000

In one of your classes last week, you were introduced to some material that was quite dry and boring. You were determined to learn it and succeeded in doing so but have not had the chance to revise it since. How much of the material can you expect to have forgotten?

- A 20%
- B 40%
- C 66%
- D 80%

The relative sensitivity of measures of retention

Solutions start on page 121.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 800

Which of the following is the least sensitive measure of memory retention?

- A recall
- B recognition
- C rehearsal
- D relearning

QUESTION 8100

Multiple-choice questions make greatest use of which measure of memory?

- A recall
- B relearning
- C recognition
- D redintegration

QUESTION 8200

Students who go to university find it easier to study a foreign language they learned in secondary school. This illustrates

- A recall
- B relearning
- C rehearsal
- D recognition

QUESTION 83000

A question in your Psychology exam requires you to describe the differences between the different levels of memory. This type of question uses which measure of retention?

- A recognition
- B recall
- C relearning
- D retrieval

QUESTION 84000

What does the savings score indicate about memory?

- A the tendency to have higher scores on recognition tests versus tests requiring recall
- B the increased amount of material an individual can maintain in short-term memory with effective chunking techniques
- C how retrieval is much more effective when a proper cue is provided
- D how much faster an individual learns something the second time around

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 850

_____ involves being required to remember information with few (if any) cues, aids, or hints available that may facilitate retrieval.

QUESTION 860

_____ requires an individual to select or identify previously encountered material to be remembered from given alternatives or a set of distractor items.

QUESTION 8700

Which measure of retention is the most sensitive measure for assessing whether information has been stored in memory? Why?

2 marks

Memory enhancement

Solutions start on page 121.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 880

The suggestion that retrieval of information would be enhanced if you were in the same physiological condition during retrieval as you were when initially learning the information is called

- A encoding-specificity retrieval.
- B conditional learning.
- C state-dependent learning.
- D context-dependent learning.

QUESTION 890

The mnemonic technique in which an individual employs 'one is a bun, two is a shoe ...' is called the

- A method of narrative chaining.
- B chunking method.
- C acrostic technique.
- D peg-word method.

QUESTION 9000

Psychologists suggest that information to be retrieved during an examination should be studied in the same physical environment as that within which the examination will take place. This is because of

- A the presence of context dependent cues.
- B the method of loci.
- C episodic cues.
- D state-dependent cues.

QUESTION 9100

As part of an activity in class, Serena had to remember a list of unrelated words. To make it easier to memorise the words, she organised them into a meaningful story. In this case, Serena used the _____ mnemonic to help her recall the list.

- A key word method
- B method of loci
- C narrative chaining
- D word associations

QUESTION 9200

People sometimes use the phrase 'Every good boy deserves fruit' to remember the notes on the lines of the treble clef. This is an example of which mnemonic?

- A an acrostic
- B narrative chaining
- C method of loci
- D an acronym

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 9300

How does elaboration help to store information in our long-term memory?

2 marks

QUESTION 9400

When confronted by new classes at the beginning of each school year, teachers often try to learn students' names by pairing them with where they sit (either because the seats are allocated or because students usually sit in the same spot). Name and explain the method being applied by teachers in this case.

2 marks

QUESTION 9500

What is an acronym? Support your answer with an appropriate example.

2 marks

Eyewitness testimony

Solutions start on page 122.

Multiple-choice questions

QUESTION 960

In Loftus and Palmer's first experiment, which verb elicited the fastest speed?

- A hit
- B collided
- C smashed
- D contacted

QUESTION 9700

Sometimes witnesses are taken back to the scene of the crime by the police because they believe that the witnesses will have better recall due to

- A context cues.
- B reliving the event.
- C mnemonic triggers.
- D state-dependent cues.

Short-answer questions

QUESTION 9800

In the study by Loftus and Palmer on eyewitness testimony, the participants' estimations of speed varied according to how the question was asked. Outline two possible reasons for this.

QUESTION 9900

Loftus and Palmer suggested that two sorts of information contribute to an eyewitness' memory for a complex event. Identify these two kinds of information.

2 marks

QUESTION 100000

What does the existence of the two kinds of information discussed in tell us about eyewitness memory?

2 marks